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August 22d.

WM. PARKER FOULKE, Esq., in the Chair.

Letters were read—

From the Royal Imperial Geological Institute of Vienna, dated 19th May, 1854, accompanying the donation of its publication, announced this evening.

From the K. L. C. Acad. der Naturforscher, dated Breslau, 28th April, 1854, transmitting the last volume of its *Nova Acta*.

A paper was presented from Prof. Baird and Mr. Charles Girard, intended for publication in the Proceedings, entitled, "Notice of a new genus of Cyprinidæ;" which was referred to Dr. Hallowell, Mr. Cassin, and Dr. Leidy.

Also, a paper from Mr. Girard, containing "Observations on a collection of Fishes made on the Pacific Coast of the United States, by Lieut. W. B. Trowbridge, U. S. A., for the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution." Referred to Dr. Hallowell, Prof. Baird, and Dr. Leidy.

Dr. Le Conte presented a paper for publication in the Proceedings, entitled, "Synopsis of the Erythridæ of the United States." Referred to Dr. Hallowell, Dr. McEuen, and Dr. Leidy.

Dr. Leidy made the following remarks.

My friend, Mr. Hanson, has called my attention to a review of the work entitled, "A Flora and Fauna within Living Animals," in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, London, April 8, 1854, edited by Prof. Lindley. The language in several passages of this review, would imply that the entophyta, described in the "Flora and Fauna," had not been discovered by its author. This, though no doubt unintentional on the part of the editor, is yet so apt to mislead the judgment of the readers of the *Gardener's Chronicle*, in estimating the value of the work, that I have considered it, in justice to myself, worthy of notice.

Prof. Lindley remarks in reference to the work, "It may be true, that it does not contain much, which may not be found in Robin's second edition of his admirable work on animals;" and further on, says, "We would point out more especially the plates, which represent the curious parasites which infest the intestines of different species of *Julus*, for though the principal of them are not overlooked by Robin, etc."

Thus it is made to appear, as if Robin had been the discoverer of most of the entophytes, described in the "Flora and Fauna," when on referring to pages 358, 395 and 403 of Robin's *Histoire Naturelle des Végétaux Parasites*, it will be found that all the vegetable parasites of the former work are duly accredited to its author.

The "Flora and Fauna" was presented for publication to the Smithsonian Institute in December, 1851, and appeared in printed form in April, 1853, the same year in which the second edition of Robin's work was issued from the press. The descriptions in the latter of those entophyta discovered by me, were taken from communications, published in the Proceedings of this Society in 1849.

I take this occasion to make a few remarks on a question in the same review, which Prof. Lindley proposes, in reference to the nature of the entophytes above indicated, whether they are to be considered as fungi or algae. Prof. Lindley observes, "for our own part, we have little doubt that they are all true fungals, as also are such productions as *Saprolegnia*, etc." In presenting an opinion with so little doubt, Prof. Lindley appears not to be "*au courant*" with a work entitled, "The Vegetable Kingdom. By John Lindley, Ph. D., &c.," in which the diagnoses of the two families mentioned are as follows:

Algae.—Cellular flowerless plants, nourished through their whole surface by the medium in which they vegetate; living in water or very damp places, propagated by zoospores, colored spores or tetraspores.

Fungales.—Cellular flowerless plants, nourished through their thallus, (spawn or mycelium,) living in air; propagated by spores, colorless or brown, and sometimes inclosed in asci; destitute of green gonidia.

Now all the entophyta in question, excepting such as are especially described as fungi, are flowerless plants, and are nourished through their whole surface by the medium in which they vegetate; and they live in a watery liquid, (the intestinal contents,) have no mycelium, and are propagated by spores in the manner of many undoubted algae; and, therefore, they agree with the former diagnosis, and not with the latter. They even differ in a very important character from *Saprolegnia*, (which on page 17 of the "Vegetable Kingdom," under the name of *Achlya*, is placed among the algae,) which possesses a mycelium, as I have frequently observed in this curious plant growing upon dead flies, earthworms, salamanders, &c.

August 29th.

Mr. CASSIN in the Chair.

The Committees to which were referred several papers by Mr. Chas. Girard, read Aug. 1, 15, and 22d, describing new species of Fishes, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

Descriptions of new Fishes, collected by Dr. A. L. Heermann, Naturalist attached to the Survey of the Pacific Railroad Route, under Lieut. R. S. Williamson, U. S. A.

By CHARLES GIRARD.

PERCIDÆ.

1. *CENTRARCHUS INTERRUPTUS*, G.—General form rather elongated, very much compressed. Nuchal region swollen; oculo-cephalic region subconcave. Snout tapering; lower jaw longest. Posterior extremity of upper maxillary reaching a vertical line drawn back of the pupil. Head forming a little less than the third of total length. Eyes large and circular; their diameter being comprised four times in the length of side of the head. Scales on cheeks rather small; a little larger on the opercle than on the cheek.

D XIII. 11. A VII. 10. C 5. 1. 8. 7. 1. 4. V I. 5. P 13.

The origin of the spiny dorsal is situated opposite the base of the pectorals, and the origin of the anal, opposite the space between the eleventh and twelfth dorsal spines. The tip of rays, as well as the base of anal, extends a little farther back than the dorsal. The base of ventrals falls upon the same vertical line as that which would intersect the base of pectorals. Scales of medium size; minutely serrated.

Greyish brown above, silver grey beneath. Irregular transverse bands of dark brown or black, interrupted along the lateral line, the portion of the band above it is somewhat alternating with the portion beneath it. A large black spot may be seen at the upper angle of opercle.

Specimens from Sacramento River, Cal.

COTTIDÆ s. CATAPHRACTI.

2. *COTTOPSIS GULOSUS*, G.—Largest specimens a little over three inches in total length; of which the head forms the third, the caudal fin excepted. Preopercle provided with two small spines, such as may be observed in several species of *Cottus* proper, the head otherwise is smooth; mouth proportionately large; posterior extremity of upper maxillary reaching a vertical line, which would pass behind the pupil. A space of five twentieths of an inch exists between the